

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 OIC-02 /041 W

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R 221920Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6324

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FROM USREP ICAO

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS; PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT; ICAO - PLACEMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS - GAITHER

REFERENCE: MONTREAL 1997 OF 18 DEC 74

1. PER REFTEL SECGEN SAID HE DID NOT SELECT THE U.S. CANDIDATE GAITHER FOR LEGAL OFFICER IN THE LEGAL BUREAU. HE APPOINTED A CANADIAN WITH FRENCH DUAL CITIZENSHIP WHO IS PROFESSOR OF AIR LAW AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL AND WELL VERSED IN CANADIAN AND QUEBEC PROVINCE LAW. SECGEN ANTICIPATES HE WILL USE THIS ENCUMBENT ON THE MANY LEGAL PROBLEMS FACING ICAO WITH RESPECT TO SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL PROBLEMS AND THE NEW BUILDING LEASE. SECGEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO FRENCH MOTHER-TONGUE OFFICER IN THE LEGAL BUREAU AT PRESENT. USREP POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO ENGLISH MOTHER-TONGUE OFFICER. WHEN USREP MENTIONED THAT SELECTEE WAS PROBABLY FRENCH GOVT. PREFERENCE, SECGEN IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED NEGATIVELY SAYING THAT GOF CANDIDATE WAS YVES BONDUELLE.

2. IT HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME THAT FRENCH WERE PUTTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON SECGEN FOR A FRENCH-SPEAKING CANDIDATE. USREP KNOWS, HOWEVER, THAT GAITHER (US) WAS SELECTED UN-ANIMOUSLY BY BOARD AS NUMBER ONE CANDIDATE FOR THE VACANCY. SELECTEE WAS NUMBER 2 AND ACCORDING TO SECGEN GOF CANDIDATE BONDUELLE WAS NUMBER THREE.

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3. USREP WISHES EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO DEPT FOR MAKING GAITHER CANDIDACY POSSIBLE. HE IS OUTSTANDING CANDIDATE, OF EXCELLENT LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC CAPABILITIES WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM VERY EFFECTIVE IN ICAO.

4. SECGEN INDICATED THAT RETIREMENT OF LEGAL OFFICER BHATTI WILL TAKE PLACE END OF THIS YEAR AND VACANCY WILL BE ADVERTISED SHORTLY. SECGEN PROMISES PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO ANY QUALIFIED US CANDIDATE. USREP RESPONDED THAT WE MAY NOT HAVE A CANDIDATE.

5. FYI; USREP FEARS THAT THERE IS LINGERING, DEEP-SEATED SUSPICION OF US LEGAL FRATERNITY AS RESULT OF SOME CONFLICT IN ICAO LEGAL CIRCLES OVER PAST FEW YEARS. WILL BE OVERCOME ONLY SLOWLY AND BY THE BEST PERSONAL DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS AT EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. END FYI. HARPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONTRE00883
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0932
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750527/aaaaayju.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MONTREAL 1997, 75 OF 18, 75 DEC 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICAO - PLACEMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS - GAITHER
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, US, ICAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006